

Rain tonight and tomorrow; fresh east to south winds.

The Washington Times.

THE BEST ADVERTISING
MEDIUM IN THE
CITY OF WASHINGTON

NUMBER 3113.

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1902.

PRICE ONE CENT.

EXPECTS COAL TO REACH \$20 A TON

Local Dealer Holds Large Quantity of Anthracite and Says That He Will Get His Price Before the Winter Is Over.

Formers of Syndicate for Importation of Coal Find It Can Be Delivered at Less Than the Prevailing Prices.

Local Committee Appeals to J. J. Edson for Information, the Possession of Which He Denies—Advices Rigid Economy.

The men who have taken the preliminary steps in the formation of a syndicate for the importation of coal have secured figures and samples of Scotch and Welsh coal, and are rapidly maturing their plans, which will be made public in the next few days.

They find that imported coal can be delivered in this city by January 20 at a price somewhat in advance of that charged for the Reading coal, but much cheaper than the prevailing prices of \$8 and \$10 a ton.

There is one dealer in the city who is holding over a thousand tons for \$20, and says that he will get it before the winter is over.

Committee Acts.

The first steps looking to such measures as may be necessary to protect the city against the suffering and death that severe weather is sure to bring were taken today by several members of the coal committee, who have remained in practical inactivity ever since they were appointed by the District Commissioners to devise means for the relief of the people.

It is the desire of those men directly interested that their names be temporarily withheld. Their purpose is to immediately accomplish the importation of coal in sufficient quantities to bridge over the disaster of a coal famine. They will not antagonize the coal dealers, but will co-operate with them in affording relief.

Appeal to Edson.

As a preliminary measure they have prepared a letter in which they ask John J. Edson, president of the Washington Loan and Trust Company, to disclose certain information as to where "coal could be secured by anyone with brains and intelligence, in sufficient quantities to supply their wants at \$7.25." If Mr. Edson has this information at the present time they call upon him in the interest of humanity to afford assistance to the thousands of the city's populace who are unable to obtain fuel.

After calling attention to the large number of citizens of the District who are in moderate circumstances, who are not objects of charity and have never been, and to the poverty-stricken, who have difficulty in making both ends meet, the letter says that 90 per cent of them are unable to secure anthracite coal for less than \$10 and \$12 a ton, even with the money in hand to pay for it.

Text of Letter.

Continuing, the letter reads: "You stated at the last meeting of the commission appointed by the Commissioners of the District to investigate the shortage of coal, in substance, that anyone with 'brains and intelligence enough' could buy anthracite coal to supply their wants at not over \$7.25 per ton in this city. Having full confidence in your public spiritedness as a citizen of the District, we would humbly beseech you to indicate to us the methods, means, or instrumentality you would employ to immediately cause to be supplied to the class of people in

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WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The southwest storm has moved northeastward to eastern Nebraska with much increased development, and rain or snow has resulted over the central valleys, the West Gulf States, and the Slope region. There were also local rains in the Middle Atlantic States and western lower lake region.

It is much warmer in the Atlantic and Gulf States, the Ohio and Upper Mississippi Valleys, and somewhat colder in interior New England and New York.

There will be rain or snow tonight and Sunday from the lower lake region eastward, and rain in the middle and south Atlantic States, with somewhat higher temperature tonight.

On the New England and middle Atlantic coasts the winds will be fresh northwest to northeast; on the south Atlantic coast fresh easterly.

Steamers departing today for European ports will have fresh northwest to northeast winds, with increasing cloudiness Saturday, and rain or snow Sunday to the Grand Banks.

TEMPERATURE.

9 a. m. 43
12 m. 43
1 p. m. 48

THE SUN.

Sun sets today 4:41 p. m.
Sun rises tomorrow 7:15 a. m.

TIDE TABLE.

Low tide today 6:56 p. m.
High tide tomorrow 12:37 a. m.
Low tide tomorrow 7:29 a. m.

HOUSE ADJOURNS FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Sparse Attendance of Members This Morning.

STRIKE COMMISSION BILL

Each Commissioner, Not Official of Government, Will Receive \$4,000 a Year.

The imminence of the holiday recess was manifest in the House today by the sparse attendance of members when Speaker Henderson called for order at noon.

Not more than seventy-five Representatives were in their seats. Another evidence was the prayer of Chaplain Couden, who returned thanks for "this glad season commemorating Thy own best gift to earth, and opening the springs of benevolence in our natures."

The House agreed to the conference report on the bill to provide for the expenses of the anthracite coal commission. The bill, as amended in the Senate, and to which the House agrees, fixes the salaries of members of the commission, who are not officials of the Government, at \$4,000 a year, and allows the commission to fix those of its employees. It further provides \$15 per diem as expenses for each member of the commission, and \$12 for each employee.

This was the only business transacted by the House, which adjourned at 12:35 p. m. until January 5.

WESTERN BLIZZARD - HEADED EASTWARD

Wyoming Stages Unable to Make Trips.

LARAMIE, Wyo., Dec. 20.—The worst blizzard ever known in Wyoming is headed toward the East. It is believed that considerable loss of life will result.

All the stages running from Laramie except that to Centennial, forty miles distant, returned after vainly trying to brave the storm. The Centennial stage has not returned, and it is feared the driver and his passengers have perished.

PRESIDENT SLIPS OUT OF TOWN FOR QUIET SUNDAY

With Family He Unexpectedly Departs for Rapidan, Va., for Visit to Old Friends.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt left Washington suddenly today on a special train for Rapidan, Va., to spend Sunday at the plantation of Joseph Wilmer, an old-time friend of the Roosevelt family. They will return to Washington Monday morning.

The entire plan of the trip was kept secret until the last moment. After attending the funeral of Mrs. U. S. Grant, the President returned to the White House offices, where a dozen callers were waiting him. He did not see any of them, however, word being returned to callers that the President was busily engaged.

Secretary Hay came into the Cabinet room and found the President signing a number of bills and commissions which were awaiting his approval. Together they went over to the White House proper and Mr. Hay returned to the State Department. An air of mysteriousness pervaded everything about the offices and nothing could be learned officially or unofficially as to the President's further plans.

Several carriages quickly drove up to the north portico of the mansion a short time afterward. The President and his family entered and were hurriedly driven

FUNERAL SERVICES OVER MRS. GRANT'S REMAINS

Solemn Ceremonial at Metropolitan M. E. Church.

THE PRESIDENT ATTENDS

Body Taken to New York for Committal to Husband's Tomb Tomorrow Morning.

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Julia Dent Grant were held this morning and the funeral party started at 11 o'clock for New York, where committal will be made tomorrow morning in the Grant Tomb in Riverside Drive.

A sorrowing people assembled in the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church this morning at 9:30 to pay tribute to the memory of the widow of one of the most distinguished Presidents of the United States. The services both at the house and church were brief but impressive.

The Rev. Frank M. Bristol, pastor of the church of which Mrs. Grant was a member, conducted the services. At the church, were gathered the President, members of the Cabinet, members of the Senate and House of Representatives together with officers of the army and navy. Many surviving members of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee and representatives of the Loyal Legion, the Union Veteran Legion and the G. A. R. were present to do homage to the wife of their former comrade-in-arms and the commander of their forces.

About the pulpit were banded floral emblems sent by friends, societies, and admirers of Mrs. Grant.

Service at House.

Shortly before 9 o'clock Dr. Bristol held a brief service of prayer at the family residence, 2111 Q Street northwest. None but members of the family were admitted to the upper room, where these services were conducted.

Promptly at 9 o'clock the pallbearers carried the body from the home and placed it in the hearse. Resting on the casket, which was of black, lined with satin, were floral emblems from General and Mrs. Fred D. Grant, Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris, Miss Sartoris, Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., Jesse Grant, Algeron, Miss Vivian, and Miss Rosemary Sartoris.

Immediately preceding the hearse were carriages containing the honorary pallbearers. They were the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Maj. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, Senator Shelby M. Cullom, Senator John Kean, Senator William B. Allison, Senator Joseph B. Foraker, Senator Thomas C. Platt, Hon. Bancroft Davis, and Hon. John R. McLean.

The members of the family occupied the carriages following the hearse.

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HUMBERTS UNDER ARREST IN MADRID

Capture of Swindlers Officially Announced.

SECURED MONEY BY FRAUD

Story of Imaginary Legacy by Which the Prominent Family Mulcted Financial Circles.

MADRID, Dec. 20.—The Humberts, the notorious Paris swindlers, were arrested at the Hotel Callo Fernz, here, this morning.

The police say the Humberts declared that they came to Madrid in May last, direct from Paris, and that they had been in the city since that time. They assert their innocence of the charge against them, and added that they would make grave revelations against a prominent French political person.

At the hotel the police found 2,500 pesetas, and many jewels. The culprits have been placed at the disposition of the French ambassador.

Those arrested include M. and Mme. Humbert, and Emile and Marie D'Aurignac. Mme. Humbert, when taken into custody, wept and begged that she be not separated from her daughter. D'Aurignac went into hysterics.

The police are elated over the completeness of their haul.

Gigantic Swindle.

M. Humbert, the head of the swindling family, prominent in financial circles, was a government official and the son of a senator of France. With his family, he lived in luxury.

Some years ago the family caused it to be announced that a rich American, Crawford by name, a former admirer of Mme. Humbert, had died and had left to Madame millions of dollars. It was given out that the fortune was in valuable securities, and that the eccentric rich American had framed his will so that they could not be disposed of for some years.

Filed in Court.

Then there were other complications. Spurious relatives, Madame told her friends, had appeared, and had begun a contest. Pending the contest, Madame would not allow the securities to be used for selling purposes the valuable securities Crawford had left her.

Neither the court nor the alleged contestants took the trouble to examine the package containing the alleged stocks and bonds, the court put on its official seal and it was carefully put away in a vault.

The contest in the courts dragged, but meantime the Humberts were living more luxuriously than ever. They had no trouble in borrowing huge sums of money on Madame's prospects. She was sure to get the fortune, and a man so high in the financial and social world as M. Humbert could do no wrong.

Secured Twelve Millions.

In all, the Humberts borrowed \$12,000,000 on what proved to be an imaginary legacy. The scheme was so cleverly worked that smart financiers were fooled for years. Finally, when they became suspicious, they got an order from the courts to open the package. To everybody's astonishment, it was found to contain blank paper.

The Humberts remained in Paris until the very day of the denouement. Then they fled. Their whereabouts has been a mystery until today.

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR OHIO VETERANS

Signs Bill, Pending for Ten Years, to Grant Muster-Out.

Before the sudden departure of the President for Rapidan, Iowa, today, Representative Dick of Ohio called at the White House offices. He did not see the President, but came away greatly pleased, at any rate, for the President had signed the long-pending bill correcting the military record of the Ohio First Light Artillery of Cleveland.

This famous civil war organization fought throughout the struggle, but never had any recognized military status. It was never mustered into the service and consequently never had any record of a muster-out. The members formed their organization two days after Fort Sumter was fired on and started at once for Kentucky, by way of Marietta and Columbus, Ohio. The mustering-out was started after them, but they were so anxious to reach the front that they did not stop for any formalities. The muster-in was, therefore, never performed.

As the only record of the Ohio First Light Artillery was that of invaders, the bill was introduced in Congress to give them the status of regular troops. Ten years ago the effort was begun and today the bill was signed. General Dick is confident this favorable culmination of the long agitation by the Ohioans interested as a most desirable Christmas gift from Congress and the President.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TAKES LITTLE REST OR FOOD

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, who is seriously ill, passed a restless night. His weakness is increasing, and he takes less nourishment.

MONROE DOCTRINE REVERED BY DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT MAY ACT AS ARBITRATOR

Germany and England Indicate Such a Desire.

THE OUTLOOK ENCOURAGING

Negotiations Believed in Progress for Purchase of the Island of Margarita. Naval Officers Sent to La Guaira.

Germany and England have indicated to this government a desire to have President Roosevelt arbitrate the differences between them and Venezuela. This was in response to a suggestion of the President that the Venezuelan troubles be referred to The Hague tribunal.

The outlook for peace is much more encouraging.

It is tacitly admitted in official circles that negotiations are in progress looking to the acquisition by the United States of the Island of Margarita, now owned by Venezuela. There has been some intimation that Germany was anxious to acquire this island, but was prevented from doing so by the Monroe Doctrine.

If the United States gets possession of Margarita, as now seems probable, it will be used as a naval station, and will be a most important strategic position to hold in West Indian waters. A nominal price will be paid for the island, but it will practically be a gift from Venezuela for the good offices of this country used in the present difficulties with European powers.

The Navy Department this morning received from Admiral Dewey a dispatch confirming the press news that Lieut. Markbury Johnston, has been sent to La Guaira on the Albany to act as assistant to United States Minister Bowen, at Caracas, Venezuela.

By not finding a torpedo boat destroyer available Admiral Dewey has solved the question of how a representative American warship could be sent to Venezuelan waters without arousing the suspicions of the powers.

All of the indications point to the fact that cable correspondence of a secret character is in progress between Admiral Dewey and the Navy Department. The utmost confidence is felt at the department in the discretion and good judgment of Admiral Dewey.

STEAMER CANNOT REACH LA GUAIRA UNTIL TUESDAY

Caracas Delayed by Storm in Unloading Cargo at San Juan, Porto Rico.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The Red D Line steamship Caracas, which left this port a week ago, bound for Venezuela, laden with freight consigned by firms here to merchants in La Guaira, will not arrive at the latter place until Tuesday morning.

The Caracas reached San Juan yesterday. Owing to the heavy rain there, it was impossible to unload her cargo until today. Consequently she will be delayed one day. She will arrive at Caracas tomorrow and will immediately leave for La Guaira.

The report that the Caracas would be held at Caracas to await orders from Washington was denied today at the

TERMS OF VENEZUELAN BLOCKADE ANNOUNCED

Warlike Measure Goes Into Effect Today.

ANNOUNCEMENT IN LONDON

Official Information Received at the State Department—Proper Warning Given to All Merchant Ships.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—A special "Official Gazette" was issued this morning containing the following announcement by the foreign office of a blockade of Venezuela beginning today:

"It is hereby notified that, as the United States of Venezuela has failed to comply with the demands of his majesty's government, a blockade by his majesty's naval forces of the ports of La Guaira, Caranero, Guanta, Cumana, Carupano and the mouths of the Orinoco is declared. Such blockade will be effectively maintained from and after today, subject to the allowance of the following days of grace for vessels sailing before the date of this notification.

West Indian Ports.

"From West Indian ports and ports on the east coast of the continent of America, ten days for steamers and twenty days for sailing vessels.

"From all other ports twenty days for steamers and forty days for sailing vessels."

"For vessels lying in the ports now declared blockaded, fifteen days.

"Vessels which attempt to violate the blockade will render themselves liable to all measures authorized by the law of nations and the respective treaties between his majesty and the different neutral powers."

This announcement is dated at the foreign office, December 20.

Official information to this effect was received by the State Department today, in order to give proper warning to the merchant ships of the world trading with Venezuela, certain days of grace are named in the formal proclamation. But after the days have expired any ship that attempts to run the blockade and enter Venezuelan ports will be liable to seizure and confiscation by a prize court.

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office of Boulton, Bliss & Ballett, agents of the Red D Line. It was said that her schedule would be carried out as nearly as possible.

The steamship Maracabo, of the same line, left her pier in Brooklyn laden with a cargo of merchandise for La Guaira today.

Among the passengers on board the Maracabo were several United States citizens bound for Venezuela to enlist in President Castro's army. The most prominent of them was Nicolas Hernandez, son of Gen. Jose Maria Hernandez (El Mocho), the revolutionary leader who was recently freed from prison by President Castro.

Mr. Simmons' views were elicited by a discussion following the reading of Henry Watterson's editorial advocating a reconstruction of the Doctrine. He does not take issue with the Democratic editor on questions of party principles; in fact just the reverse. He said:

"I have a profound respect for Mr. Watterson's opinion. I consider him one of the greatest literary geniuses of the age and his advice is generally to be followed with the utmost safety and satisfaction, but the Monroe Doctrine is not a party declaration. It belongs to the Government, no matter which party is in power, and it should be supported absolutely—the slightest deviation would be inadvisable, and we, as a united people, should see to it that it is carried out to the letter."

"I am not sure that we do not need the Monroe Doctrine now more than before. It seems a safe one to tie to; it has served the country well in several trying situations; it has been a power as a preventive against threatening complications, and above all it is respected by the powers. It certainly would not be wise to admit now that it was weaknesses—and for Americans to pick flaws which foreign powers have been unable to find surely would be folly. For my part I cannot see the need of modification or reconstruction."

"No other country should be permitted to gain a foothold in South America. I don't know that we want the land down there, but certainly we don't want anyone else to get it. Some day we may find it advisable to procure South American possessions. I believe we shall—not soon, perhaps, but some day."

Party Leaders Not Disposed to Lend Their Approval to Henry Watterson's Editorial Declaration.

Repudiate the Kentuckian's Proposition for Readjustment of Time-Honored Policy of the Government.

Believe It Wise If Only for Self-Defense—Are Inclined to Regard Editor's Expression as Eccentric.

Democrats in Congress, as a general rule, do not approve the declaration of Henry Watterson, as expressed in his "Courier-Journal" editorial, that the United States should abandon the Monroe Doctrine. Among members of both houses the feeling, since the joint demonstration of Great Britain and Germany against Venezuela, is stronger than ever in favor of adhering to the principle.

While it is admitted that in some of the South and Central American countries there is a tendency to hide behind the Monroe Doctrine for the purpose of avoiding payment of just debts and claims, it is felt that such acts are not sufficient to warrant the United States in abandoning its time-honored policy. With Democrats, there is a feeling of reverence for tradition, and with them the Monroe Doctrine has come to be a tradition, and they are in favor of maintaining it.

Wise If Only for Self-Defense.

The chief point which is made in opposition to the argument of Mr. Watterson, is that the United States should maintain the Monroe Doctrine as a matter of self-protection—that this is paramount to the question of preventing the overthrow of the weaker states of South and Central America by the powers of Europe. European powers, it is argued, have respected the Doctrine for so many years that it would be an indication of weakness and a backdown on the part of the United States to abandon the principle.

Congressmen point to the fact that the mere reassertion of the Monroe Doctrine and the declaration that this country would enforce it brought England promptly to terms when Cleveland was President, and that even in the present controversy both England and Germany approached this Government to inquire how far they would be allowed to proceed without incurring the displeasure of the United States.

Altogether Democrats are inclined to regard Mr. Watterson's expression as eccentric, and not at all representative of the sentiments of Democrats throughout the country.

Senator Simmons' Views.

Senator Simmons of North Carolina believes the members of the minority party in Congress would express themselves almost unanimously in favor of the Administration's attitude in the Venezuelan affair, were it possible to obtain the views of all. He believes President Roosevelt's interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine gives evidence of sound business judgment, and that the provisions of this declaration of 1823 are strengthened rather than weakened by the Government's policy in this latest test of the Doctrine's effectiveness.

Mr. Simmons' views were elicited by a discussion following the reading of Henry Watterson's editorial advocating a reconstruction of the Doctrine. He does not take issue with the Democratic editor on questions of party principles; in fact just the reverse. He said:

"I have a profound respect for Mr. Watterson's opinion. I consider him one of the greatest literary geniuses of the age and his advice is generally to be followed with the utmost safety and satisfaction, but the Monroe Doctrine is not a party declaration. It belongs to the Government, no matter which party is in power, and it should be supported absolutely—the slightest deviation would be inadvisable, and we, as a united people, should see to it that it is carried out to the letter."

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Readjustment Not Needed.

Representative A. S. Burleson (Dem., Tex.), member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs: "I do not believe the Monroe Doctrine could be expressed more clearly today than it was by President Monroe. Neither do I believe the present situation requires any readjustment of the Monroe Doctrine. I think Mr. Watterson has a mistaken idea of

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